MR3529-28
Application Serial No.: 10/045,055
Reply to Office Action dated 27 February 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 27 February 2006. Responsive to the rejections made by the Examiner, Claims 1-9, 12, 15, 17, and 23 have been amended for further prosecution with the other pending claims. It is believed that with such amendments, there is a further clarification of the Claims' recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 7 and 17 – 24 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. More specifically, the Examiner stated that these claims were worded in such a way as to merely recite functionally descriptive material per se. The Examiner additionally rejected Claims 1 – 24[a] under the same statutory section for failing to recite a tangible result.

As mentioned, a number of claims have now been amended by this Amendment, including each of the pending independent Claims 1, 8, 12, and 17. It is believed that the amendments incorporated into these claims, as well as the others depending therefrom, now obviate the Examiner's concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 12 and 14 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Hines reference. The Examiner cited various paragraphs of Hines for disclosing, among other things, debugging features involving constraints and constraint resolution in the manner

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[a] The Examiner presumably meant to indicate Claims 1 – 12 and 14 – 24, as Claim 13 was earlier canceled.

claimed.

As each of the newly-amended independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 17 now more clearly recites, Applicants' debugger and method includes among its combination of features the use of generation entities having "fields representative of at least one data structure or variable," as well as "constraints" for "defining relationships between respective fields." The debugger/method also includes among its features measures to display such "generation entities" (Claims 1 and 8) or "at least one field" thereof "concurrently" with certain corresponding generation "events" in the given constraint system, as each of the newly-amended independent claims also now more clearly recites.

The full combination of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicants' pending claims is nowhere disclosed by the cited Hines reference. Note for instance that Hines nowhere discloses the display of generation entities having "fields" and/or "constraints" pertaining to such "fields" "concurrently" with their corresponding generation "events," as Applicants' claims recite. While Hines does disclose the display of certain events and states (see Figs. 43, 44 of the reference), the reference nowhere discloses the concurrent display of such with any constraint-based generation entities as claimed. Indeed, Hines specifically defines "constraints" to be those "boolean relationships between" certain of its "control ports." Hines prescribes them to be in particular "a set of instructions to the runtime system dealing with how to enforce certain relationships between"

such "components" (paragraphs [0166], [0167]).

The constraints of Hines simply do not relate to any "fields" for a "data structure or variable," as each of the newly-amended independent claims clarify. Hence, the reference makes no provision for the display of any fields as such, much less the display "concurrently" with their corresponding generation events to facilitate visual debugging.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited Hines reference fails to disclose the unique combination of features now more clearly recited by Applicants' pending claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application. It is believed that the subject Patent Application has now been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,
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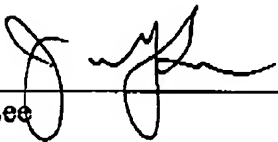(410) 465-6678
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